



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Forty singers were used and 240 songs were recorded by the phonograph.

The songs recorded cover a wide range of subjects and illustrate very well the culture of the tribe. First in importance stand the songs connected with the important tribal ceremonies. The oldest of these celebrates the coming to the Dakota Indians of the first of the buffalo herds. They were at this time a poor and obscure tribe living on the Atlantic seaboard. By means of the ritual and songs connected with this ancient ceremony, taught them by the sacred white buffalo maiden, the first stragglers from a great buffalo herd reached their village. The tribe migrated in search of these animals, using the trails left by the buffalo. After many wanderings they finally reached the great plains west of the Mississippi. Their descendants later occupied this region, absorbing or driving out most of the original occupants. This is fairly typical of the ceremonial songs that number over fifty, principally having to do with the sun dance, the characteristic ceremony of the great plains. Songs having to do with the ritual of secret societies stand next in number and importance, some thirty in number. A long list of war songs has been recorded, and many typical songs of the chase. A very important group of songs are those composed and sung in honor of some individual. These include many of the later compositions though some are very old and have served to commemorate many individual heroes whose names have succeeded each other as the older hero is forgotten and a later candidate for honors displaces him in popular recognition. In a lesser group are included songs connected with the playing of games, children's songs and love songs. Altogether the record is thoroughly characteristic of the region and expresses very completely the predominant interests of this tribe of the Dakota Indians.

Accompanying the musical record, the notation and interpretation of the songs are given in considerable detail, the story of each important song, a description of the ritual or ceremony belonging to it, and photographs of the performers and the instruments used in the ceremony. The writer has omitted no essential detail in her research that might make her study a more accurate piece of Indian life. This bulletin is soon to be followed by one containing her latest report on Indian music, a study of the music of the Mandan and Hidatsa.

O. G. LIBBY

In the Alaskan wilderness. By George Byron Gordon, Sc.D., F.R.G.S. (Philadelphia: John C. Winston company, 1917. 247 p. \$3.50 net.)

The book before us, which, according to the author, makes no claim to be other than an accurate record of personal adventure and individual

effort, describes a journey through then unknown portions of central Alaska made in 1907 by the author and his brother. It is dedicated to the latter, Lieutenant MacLaren Gordon, who was killed in action during the battle of the Somme, October 21, 1916. The journey is certainly remarkable when one considers that it was made without guides through a country of which not even sketch maps were in existence and that in reality the party, though small, experienced no serious difficulties. They carried out the plan within the time set, accomplished without accident the course decided upon, and demonstrated the geographical relations much as had been predicted. The delay in the publication of the results was not intentional as it had been planned to combine with them more complete observations to be made on a later trip; but this hope was not realized and the author decided to publish the record of the original expedition as they appear in the book under review.

The purpose of the journey was not primarily geographical. It was undertaken, in first instance, to give opportunity for the study of the native life of the districts explored. But as a matter of fact, the major portion of the country traversed was almost without human inhabitants, and in the opinion of the author has never been more richly populated despite the striking abundance of the game that ranges over it. On the lower Kuskokwim was found an opportunity to study an aboriginal population that apparently preserved the ancient customs and manner of living in truly primitive fashion. This is of especial value since the Alaskan native is so susceptible to new influences that the time is near at hand when it will be too late to get any records or evidences of primitive conditions.

Mr. Gordon believes that his party was the first to cross Alaska from Tanana to Bering sea by the route which was followed. Carrying their outfit in a small canoe, the two men left Fairbanks on June 26, 1907, passed down the Tanana and up the Kantishna to Lake Minchumina. This large body of water lies about north of Mt. Denali, separated from it by the great stretch of rich rolling prairies that now include the great national game preserve. They were tempted to remain here, but subsequently decided to continue despite the attractions of the surroundings.

In describing this region the author dwells again and again on the wonderful impressions created by Denali, the great mountain, rightly named in the language of the Indians "The Most High." Archdeacon Hudson Stuck of Alaska has voiced a wonderful plea in his books for the preservation of this ancient and appropriate name; and thinking along the same line Gordon says (p. 77): "I was impressed during all

my intercourse with the few Indians in Alaska that their geographical knowledge is very considerable. They travel extensively and they have names for every topographical feature of the country. These names have always certain attributes to recommend them. They have been spoken by untold generations of men and handed down in the native tongues of the land from unknown antiquity. They are, therefore, a part of the inheritance of the human race and especially of Americans. These place names have moreover, in each instance, a most appropriate significance. They carry with them local associations of special meaning and they hand down long traditions of man's relation with nature.

"It has always appeared to me that such arguments as these should make a powerful appeal to American geographers and explorers and to the national conscience. It is more than a matter of sentiment; but even if I were appealing to sentiment alone, I should expect the Indian name of a place to make a nobler appeal in this particular connection than the name of any man in our own time."

From Lake Minchumina they crossed by a short portage to the headwaters of the upper Kuskokwim or Tichininik and, descending the river to Bering sea, reached the end of a canoe trip that totaled over twelve hundred miles. After various adventures in a small steamer the party made Nome, and the last boat for Seattle.

It would be impossible within the space at command to refer in detail to the interesting records of adventure and important observations on village life and other native customs, to the effects of the wilderness on the white man, and to the influence on the simple natives of the first messengers of a higher civilization that reach his home. Mr. Gordon has written an interesting book which will be read with pleasure by all who are fond of adventure or seek information with regard to this little-known quarter of the world. The archeological and ethnological observations and the illustrations of the dress, basketry, weapons, and picture writing together with some data on the vocabularies and on the folk lore of these peoples give to the book a permanent place in the literature on Alaskan native tribes.

HENRY B. WARD

History of the United States. By John Holladay Latané, Ph.D., professor of American history, Johns Hopkins university. (New York: Allyn and Bacon, 1918. 589 p.)

The name of Mr. Latané on the title-page of a book on American history promises scholarship, a progressive spirit, and an emphasis upon foreign relations. The present volume puts into simple and agreeable form the results of scholarly research. Although designed for a text-